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THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

MADERA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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THIS AND THAT - HERE AND THERE IN EARLY MADERA COUNTY

This Historian is a collection of short stories, contributed by various people.

JUDGE E. E. CALHOUN

We read many newspaper accounts of the formation of our county and the colorful personnel involved. One person that was mentioned frequently was Judge E. E. Calhoun. We tried repeatedly to find out more about this man but we were unsuccessful. Just a few weeks ago we discovered his obituary in an old scrapbook that had been in the Mace Family.

Ezekiel Ewing Calhoun was born in Kentucky in 1825. His father was Patrick Calhoun. Ezekiel was a second cousin of John C. Calhoun, a famous man in American History. Ezekiel graduated from law school from the University of Louisville in 1850. (John C. Calhoun was U.S. Secretary of War in 1824, Vice President in 1829.)

Mr. Calhoun practiced law for one year, then crossed the plains for California, arriving at San Bernardino after six months travel. He leased Governor Pico's famous Santa Margarita ranch in San Diego County and successfully managed that large estate.

In 1854 E. E. Calhoun came to the San Joaquin Valley. He camped in various spots of this, then barren land. He was certainly a pioneer in this area as subsequent events proved. We find him next in 1855 in the Visalia settlement. He had much to do with the shaping of events in the early history of that town.

He was county clerk of Tulare County in 1855, and for three years held the office of County Judge.

In 1866 Kern County was organized and Judge Calhoun was the first District Attorney. He also held the offices of County Surveyor, County Auditor, and County School Superintendent at various times.

For a short period prior to 1884 he resided with his family in Santa Clara County and in the year he moved to Fresno, living there until 1887 when he located in Selma. He remained here several years then went to Hildreth in Madera County and remained there until his death on April 3, 1896. His funeral was held in Hildreth.

"Judge E. E. Calhoun was well informed, thoroughly conversant with every detail of the early settlement of this County, a fluent speaker, and those who were fortunate to be his friends will not soon forget the many interesting anecdotes he realted," a direct quotation from the Fresno paper.

It is no wonder Judge Calhoun was able to speak so persuasively at the famous meeting held in Fresno in January 28, 1893, when Madera County was formed.

Judge Calhoun was married October 17, 1861 to Miss Laura Davis, a native of the South. They had seven children. Their family was exceptional. The three elder daughters all graduated from San Jose Normal, Eleanor, the oldest having marked dramatic ability, attained a high degree of success in

both the French and London theaters. Jessie, another daughter was for a time a professor of Elocution at the University of the Pacific at San Jose.

We are so pleased that we found this information about this really outstanding man. This story has meaning for Tulare, Kern and Madera Counties and surely the residents of Hildreth will appreciate it too.

As to where he was buried, we were unable to secure this information.

Mr. Wm. A. Ellis of Northfork says he recalls seeing Judge Calhoun several times in the early 90's, but was not really acquainted with him.

Mr. & Mrs. William Ryan of O'Neals have Judge Calhouns' Notary Seal.

MONTE REDONDA
A Vanished Land Mark
by Douglas Houston - 1967

The "Monte Redonda" referred to was the name applied by the early Spanish to a large grove of cotton wood trees, located some five to seven miles west of the present City of Madera on ground inundated by the Fresno River during high water. This was a definite land mark, the tall trees being visible on a clear day for miles.

There were actually two groves separated by about 1/4 of a mile of open ground and known to early Madera residents as the upper and lower or east and west Montes: Redonda, practically forgotten by that time was preserved only in old records.

The groves were all on Miller and Lux holdings and the "Monte Redonda" referred to by the "Fresno Weekly Expositor" was the name applied to a ranch they established in the lower grove. This was later shortened to "Monte Ranch".

There is no known map or record showing the extent of these groves but to the writer's memory they were quite large, thirty or forty acres at least.

The shade, grass and easy driving distance made the upper grove a popular picnic ground for Madera residents during the horse and buggy days, while the lower grove was equally popular as a nesting place for the cranes that inhabited the pasture lands along the Chowchilla Canal and San Joaquin River, every tall tree containing one or more of the large bundles of twigs and branches that were the nests.

The land was used only as pasture by Miller and Lux but as soon as it was sold off with the breaking up of their holdings, it was cleared of trees and put under cultivation. The only trace of the old Monte being an unusual number of large trees on the banks of the Fresno River were it passed through the groves.

(The above story was written by Douglas Houston and given to the Madera County Historical Society. Mr. Houston had happy memories of this old land mark and wanted to share it.

Mr. Nathan Sweet did some research on the subject also and gave them to Douglas, who included them with this story.)

Monte Redonda (Redonda) is mentioned in various articles and historical books. Expeditions to the Interior of California, Central Valley. 1820-1840 by S. F. Cook, 1962, Page 181 - Pico's Expedition to the San Joaquin and King's River. December 27, 1825 to January 31, 1826.

Pico's report reads: "He came upon a village on the San Joaquin River where he took some prisoners, whom he sent back to San Juan Bautista Mission, in charge of an alcalde. He then left the river and went towards the Sierra Nevada and reached a place called Monte Redonda."

Note: Pico had made many trips to the valley and evidently knew of Monte Redonda as a land mark, familiar to various early expeditions.

Fresno Weekly Expositor - 11-16-1870 Vol. 1 #30 "Supervisors declare the road from Monte Redonda on the Fresno River to Firebaugh Ferry a public highway.

Fresno Weekly Expositor - 12/4/1872 Vol. 3 #33. Item of news: First time in many years, at this season, water is running within three miles of the Monte Redonda.

Fresno Weekly Expositor - 4/22/1874 Vol. 5 #1 Born on Easter Sunday at Monte Redonda Ranch, to the wife of J. Becker, a boy. One definition of "Monte" is thicket or dense grove of trees.

Virgil Vandiveer, of San Francisco and a member of our Society included this statement in a letter to us:

"The late Doug Houston was my nearest neighbor and playmate. Many times we rode our horses into the old Monte, looking for bird's eggs and bee trees."

PEOPLE VERSUS JOHN DOE (LEONARD HAMMOND)
1901
Contributed by Guy Crow

Of interest to many old timers of Madera County is the following resume of a case history of a crime committed in the county in 1901. Included in the resume are the photostat copies of the complaint, warrant of arrest, subpoenaes, information, and commitment actually used at the time of the arrest and trial.

Herman L. Crow
Constable-2nd Township-1901

Late in the month of February 1901, the clients of Charlie Tann's Saloon at Berenda were surprised by the appearance of a young man, who lined them up at the side of the room and removed jewelry and money from them.

Report of the robbery was received at the sheriff's office and Sheriff W. B. Thurman assigned to constable Herman L. Crow, (father of Guy Crow), the detail of keeping a lookout for the robber in his district, that of Berenda.

Through a clever ruse of luring the robber by means of having another man carry a lantern across the far side of a corral, attracting the fugitive's attention, constable Crow was able to sneak up on his subject and take him into custody. Due to the fact that he was reported very dangerous, Mr. Crow locked the prisoner in a room at the Hotel in Berenda, and stood guard all night at the door until help came from Madera.

The prisoner was booked on a charge of robbery, as "John Doe". At the Madera County Jail was Deputy Sheriff Ervine R. Lewis. While at the jail, the prisoner asked if he could take a bath. The bath was on the second floor of the turret of the jail. Mr. Lewis gave the prisoner soap and a towel. When the deputy went to return "John Doe" to the cell, he was hit over the head with a stone or brick which the prisoner had removed from the jail wall and wrapped in the towel. The deputy's gun was removed and the prisoner had started for the front door on the first floor which was locked. Deputy Lewis ran to the ladder and reached the top floor of the turret, closing the door so the prisoner could not get into that part of the building.

At this moment Sheriff Thurman rode up to the jail on his bicycle. Mr. Lewis shouted out of the turret window to the Sheriff, warning him of the situation. The prisoner was met at the door by Sheriff Thurman and in the gun battle that followed, the sheriff was shot in the hand, and the prisoner was shot through the left eye and stomach.

Still known only as "John Doe" a complaint was signed by Thomas Costello and filed on the 27th of February 1901, in the second township of the County of Madera, then located at Berenda. The charge was robbery. The complaint was amended on March 1, 1901, subpoenaes were issued and a hearing was held on that date with Justice of the Peace E. T. Vignola presiding.

On March 27, 1901, information was filed by R. R. Fowler, District Attorney, in the office of the County Clerk, C. J. Eubanks. It was learned at this time that "John Doe" was, in fact, a man by the name of Leonard Hammond. He was com-

mitted by Judge William M. Conley to the State Penitentiary at Folsom on April 1, 1901 for a term of 90 years. Court reporter at the court session was Joseph T. Conley.

An intensive search was made to find the hiding place of the loot taken by the bandit. Every inch of ground was carefully gone over for a great distance around the scene of the burglary. It was finally located, covered by old clothing and dirt, in a hole not too far from the place of the prisoner's arrest.

After serving sufficient time in Folsom to be granted a parole, Leonard Hammond was released and immediately went back to his old trade of robbery. It is reported he attempted to hold up a river boat on the Sacramento River, and in the fight that ensued, was struck down by an oar, and drowned in the river.

519 E. Central Ave.

MRS. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, (Martha Baird)

We will have to take our readers back to the earlier days of Madera County. The home shown above was the home of Mr. & Mrs. William F. Baird and their two children.

The Bairds left Madera in 1902 to make their home in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Baird passed away in 1903. She was a very popular and highly, respected woman. She was outstanding in music, and at the time of her death was an instructor of both piano and pipe organ at the University of Southern California.

While the Bairds resided in Madera Mrs. Baird gave piano lessons to several well known Maderans. When scanning old newspapers we see Mrs. Baird's name over and over; playing and singing at various social affairs.

The daughter Martha was quite young when the family moved from Madera. Martha followed her mother's interest in music and became a very well known concert pianist. She began playing publicly when eight years old. In 1918 at the age of 24 whe played with the Boston Symphony and in 1926 she made her London debut at Royal Albert Hall. In 1940 she wrote the Republican's Official Campaign song, "We Want Wilkie".

Martha Baird married John D. Rockefeller II on August 15, 1951 in Providence Rhode Island. She still resides in New York City. John D. III, Nelson, and Winthrop Rockefeller are her step-sons.

We included this little story because some of our old timers recall Martha and her parents when they lived here in Madera.

ROOSEVELT TALKS

Headlines from the Daily Mercury, dated May 16, 1903 created great interest in Madera County on May 15. Quoting, "The greatest crowd of people ever seen in Raymond greeted President Theodore Roosevelt when he arrived at this station this morning to take the stage for Yosemite Valley. For days, people have been arriving from all over the county and adjoining counties to get a glimpse of the President. Accomodations were not sufficient and many camped along the road. The U.

S. Cavalry had a troop sent in from Yosemite to participate in the reception.

President Roosevelt, accompanied by secret service men, made their way to Bowen's Store where a platform had been erected. A. C. Shaw, Chairman of the reception committee stepped forward and in a few brief words introduced the President.

President Roosevelt stepped to the front of the platform and gave a five minute speech. He was dressed for the stage ride in the Rough Riders' suit of khaki. President Roosevelt spoke of his great pleasure in visiting California and that his visit would not be complete until he had seen Yosemite. After the speech the great throng of people burst forth into cheers, the band played, old soldiers (G.A.R.'s and Spanish American War Veterans) shook hands. Amid the shouting, the President and his party left the platform and were escorted by U. S. Cavalrymen to the stage bound for Yosemite.

There was the crack of the whip, the horses stretched out and the stage rolled away!

The crowd stayed for the remainder of the day to finish the pleasures planned by the committee in charge."

EXCURSION TO BERENDA

Quoting again from the Madera Daily Mercury, May 16, 1903:

"The people who were unable to go to Raymond to see and hear President Roosevelt will have the opportunity to greet him when he returns from Yosemite. The President and his party will return on the train from Raymond and will arrive in Berenda at 7 P.M. next Monday night and remain one half hour.

An excursion train will be made up at Fresno and arrive in Madera at 5:20 or 5:30 P.M. Monday. The round trip from Madera to Berenda will be 25¢. No doubt many will make the trip."

Thousands greeted the President at Berenda. The largest crowd to ever leave Madera on excursion! Crowd was estimated to be 3,000, 1,000 of these from Madera, the other 2,000 came from Merced, Selma, Sanger, Hanford, Fresno and other communities.

This paragraph from the news item must be included!

"The large crowd that had depended on the Southern Pacific for transportation were badly buncoed. They were not given any rebate on their fares and were not given any cars! The agent had been promised 4 cars, but none were designated for Madera. The Madera crowd waited from 5:30 to until 6:15 P.M. and when the train arrived there was no room; steps were even filled. The Madera crowd got on somehow, but of course no seats, barely standing room.

All roads leading to Berenda were dotted with carriages, heavily loaded, even bicycles and a few automobiles."

The article continues, telling of the huge crowd, that Fresno and Madera vied with each other in presenting the introductions but the President seemed to sense the situation and began, to speak as soon as the train stopped.

Madera presented to the President a tablet of sugar pine 31 inches square in the center of which was a picture of the largest sugar pine in the world. The inscription read:

Presented to the President of the U. S. of America.
Theodore Roosevelt
By the citizens of Madera County, California.
May 18, 1903.

(We wonder what happened to this gift. This tablet of sugar pine was originated by E. H. Cox.)

The President was interrupted in his speech by a train official who said it was time to go. The President said, "Just tell 'em to wait a minute." He turned back to the group and said, "Look here! I like this crowd," and the crowd replied, "And we like you."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MADERA POST OFFICE.

by Winifred Pabst

Upper California in 1850 consisted of the present states of California, Nevada and Utah, and parts of the present states of Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. It was approximately the territory bounded on the north by the Oregon Territory, on the south by the Gila River, on the east by the Rio Grande and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

Beginning February 1, 1871 arrangements were made with the San Joaquin Valley division of the Central Pacific Railroad Company for the transportation of the mail six times a week between Lathrop and Modesto. A year later, February 1, 1872, the service was extended from Modesto by Turlock to Bear Creek, and by June of that year it had reached Merced.

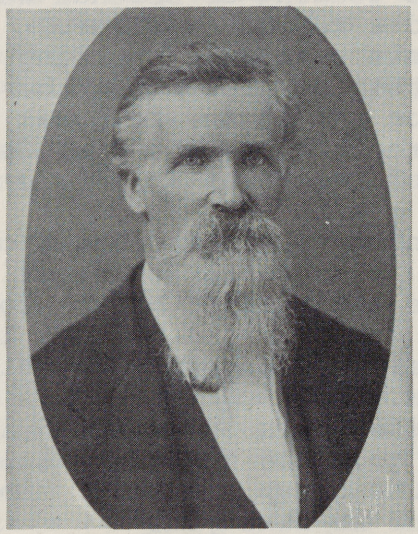
Records indicate that by June 20, 1873, railroad service had been extended to Goshen, and that the Madera Post Office was established April 26, 1877 on the Central Pacific Railroad route from Lathrop to Goshen, six times a week. Records indicate that the compensation of the first postmaster, Edwin Moore, for the first 90 days of his service was $79.76.

Postmaster	Date Appointed
Edwin Moore	April 26, 1877 (established)
John R. Murphy	November 20, 1888
Lewis Orrin Sharp	December 7, 1888

Up to this point the postoffice was established as Madera, Fresno County. The office was changed to Madera County, May 3, 1893.

John M. Griffin	August 8, 1894
George W. Parsons	August 8, 1898
William L. Williams	February 16, 1903
John L. Murphy	February 4, 1915
Thomas P. Cosgrave (Acting P.M.)	October 1, 1923
Thomas P. Cosgrave (appointed)	January 9, 1924
Thomas P. Cosgrave, Jr. (Acting P.M.)	October 15, 1928
Thomas P. Cosgrave, (appointed	April 27, 1932
Edmund V. Murphy (Acting)	February 20, 1933
Edmund V. Murphy (appointed)	February 20, 1934
Lewis W. Hartwell	September 30, 1954
Frank J. Noli	October 25, 1963

The Postoffice moved to its present location in 1937, after the new building was erected on Sixth & D Streets. The building was enlarged in 1965.

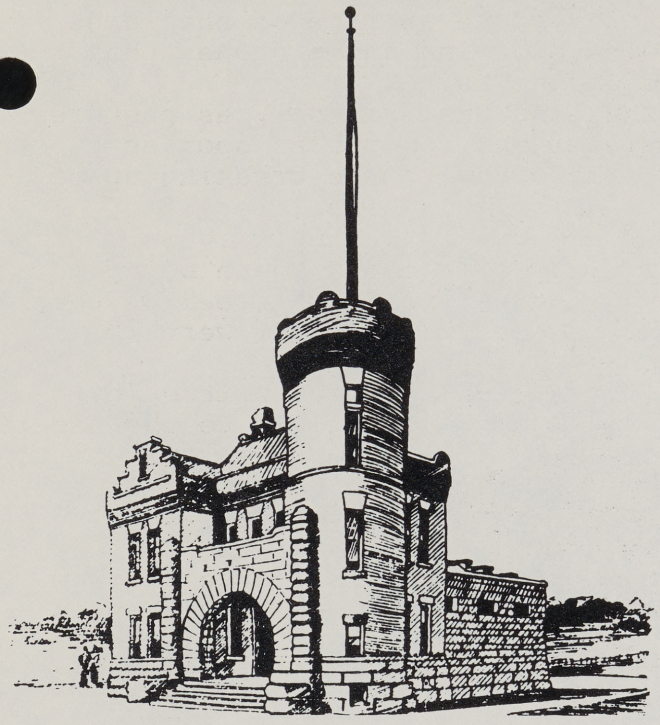


Edwin Moore-First Postmaster

SHERIFFS OF MADERA COUNTY

W. H. Thurman - Elected May 20, 1893
S. W. Westfall - Elected November 6, 1894
W. B. Thurman - Elected November 8, 1898
John M. Jones - Elected November 4, 1902
John M. Jones - Re-elected November 6, 1906
S. W. Westfall - Elected November 8, 1910
J. F. Lewis - Elected November 3, 1914
J. H. Barnett - Elected November 7, 1922
W. C. Rhodes - Elected November 2, 1926
W. O. Justice - Elected November 6, 1934
Marlin L. Young - Elected November, 1955
Retired January 31, 1970

Madera County's Proposed New Jail,
to be built on Block Ten of Hughes Addition.



Madera County's Proposed Jail

The above is a good picture of the plan for a new jail, selected by the Board of Supervisors, at the November session.

It will be a handsome structure, built of brick and granite--mostly granite. It will be two stories high in the main and one-story in the rear of jail section, but the jail portion will be so constructed that a second story can be added at any time it may be desired.

The main building will contain the sheriff's office and sleeping apartments for the jailor. There will be seven cells in all as follows:

Two large hobo cells, one cell for women, which will be of granite, a padded cell for insane patients, and three steel cells for criminals. There is also a room to be used as a kitchen.

Upstairs there are several rooms, which will probably be used for sheriff or jailor's residence.

A feature of the jail is that there will be only one entrance, and that will be through the sheriff's main office, which will prevent any communication with prisoners without the jailor's notice.

Messrs. McDougal, the architects, claim that this handsome and substantial building can be built within the $12,000 limit, and to show their good faith will give a $5,000 bond to complete the building, provided no other bids are offered.

The supervisors have advertised for bids which will be received and opened Tuesday, March 8, 1898, at 10 A.M.

OPENING NIGHT OF ROSENTHAL-KUTNER

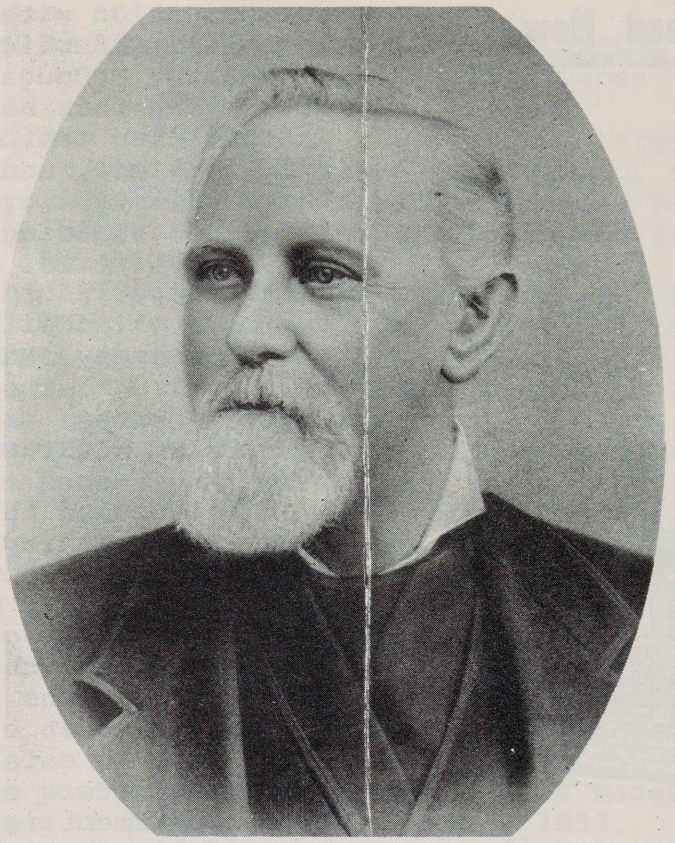
(We included this short item because of community interest when the Madera Drug Store was remodeled and the Madera County Historian Vol. IX-1 gave the history of the building.)

Quoting from the Madera Daily Tribune: "Few towns in the San Joaquin Valley can boast of as complete and up to date an establishment as the new department store of Rosenthal-Kutner. Each department is roomy, bright and beautifully furnished.

On Saturday evening, November 30, 19_?_ the store was opened in a fitting manner. The doors opened at 7 o'clock and an immense throng inspected the new establishment.

The Madera Band added to the pleasure of the occasion by playing several selections. The entire corps of 20 clerks were kept busy showing the visitors through the store. Everyone received a beautiful souvenir novelty. The ladies were all given a bar of a new kind of soap.

Everyone was impressed with the new store, which is an ornament to the town of Madera."



W. H. Thurman
First Sheriff of Madera County

Madera County Historical Society

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	Alden Potter
	Mrs. Alex Robertson
	Mrs. William Seabury

The Madera County Historical contributors this quarter:

Winifred Pabst - Madera
Guy Crow - Madera
Douglas Houston, deceased 1969
Nathan Sweet
Madera Newspapers Early

Compiled by Maud Lindemann, Curator

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